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WRITTEN BY:
FAUSTO VITALIANO

ART BY:
GIORGIO CAVAZZANO

ASSISTANT EDITOR:
CHRISTOPHER BURNS

EDITOR:
CHRISTOPHER MEYER

COVER A:
GIORGIO CAVAZZANO

COVER B:
ANDREA FRECCERO

DESIGNER:
ERIKA TERRIQUEZ

TRANSLATOR:
SAIDA TEMOFONTE

LETTERER:
JOSE MACASOCOL JR.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: JESSE POST, LAUREN KRESSEL, AND ELENA GARBO

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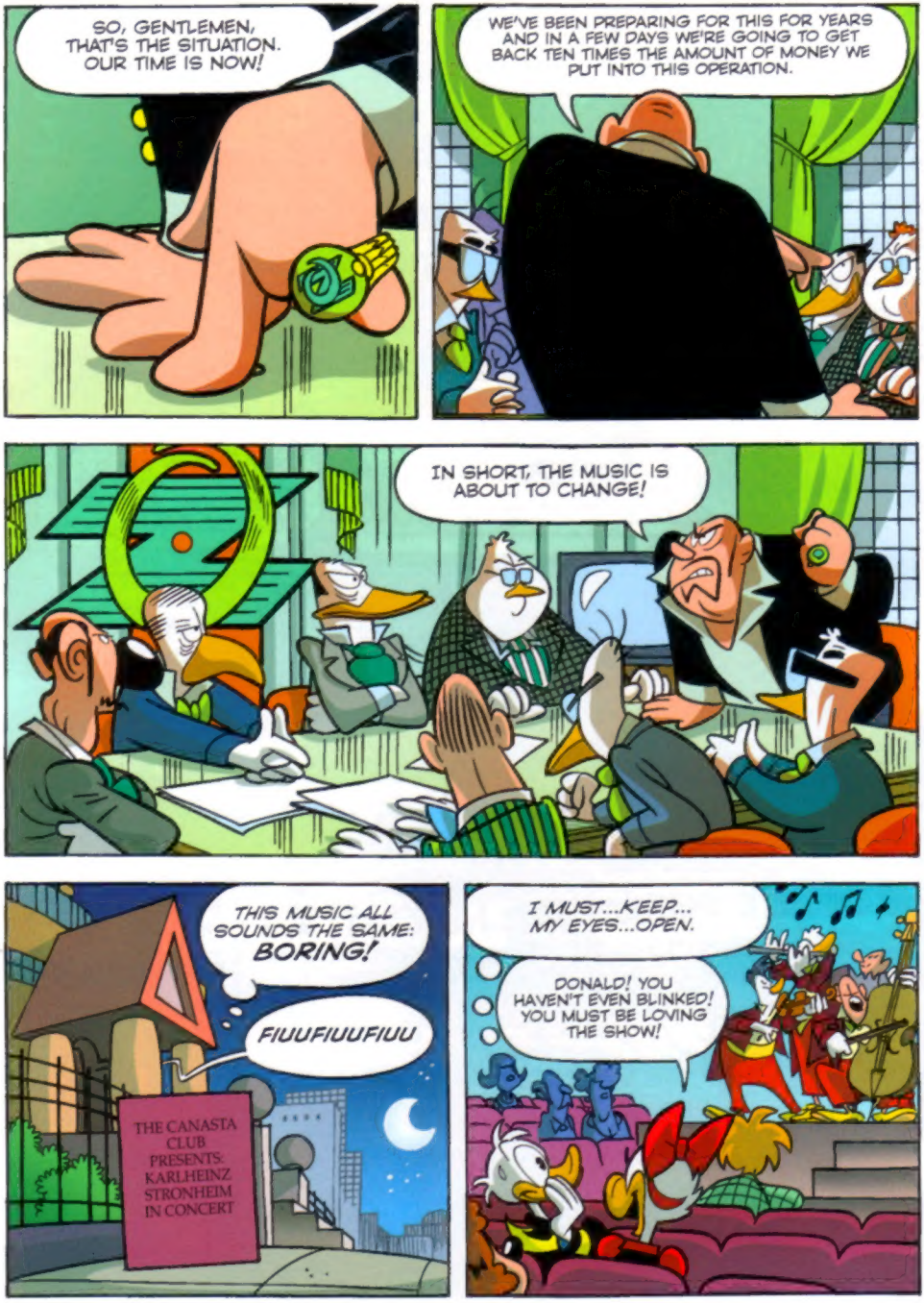
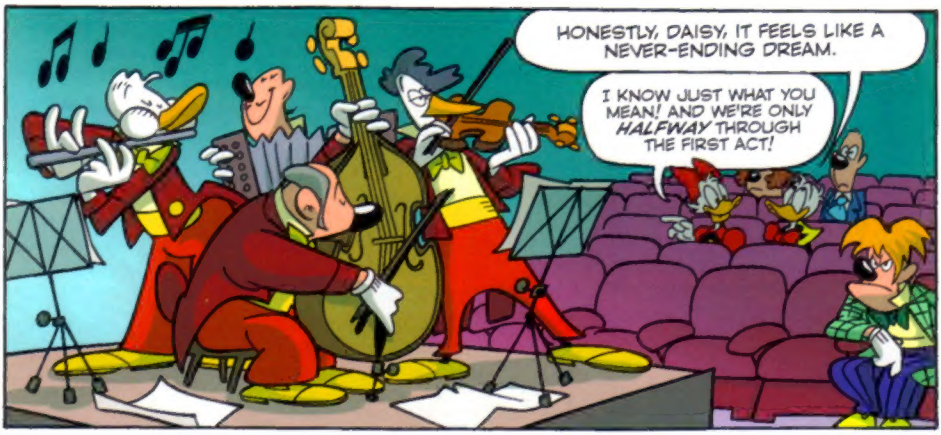
GOOD EVENING! I'M MISSY MALLARD COMING TO YOU LIVE FROM THE BEAUTIFUL PROVINCE OF CLIPPEDONIA WHERE ELECTION BOOTHS HAVE JUST CLOSED.
CITIZENS HERE ARE SO CONFIDENT THAT THEIR BELOVED STANDING PRESIDENT WILL BE CONFIRMED FOR A FIFTH TERM THEY'VE ALREADY STARTED CELEBRATING...
...DESPITE THE FACT THAT RESULTS FROM THE POLLING PROGRAM WON'T BE COMPUTED FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
SEND
THE BRAND NEW, SATELLITE-MONITORED PROGRAM WAS INSTALLED EARLIER THIS YEAR WHEN, FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, ANOTHER CANDIDATE ENTERED THE RACE, DESPITE WHAT MANY ARE CALLING A ONE IN A MILLION SHOT TO WIN.
BUT AS THEY SAY, IT AIN'T OVER TILL THE FAT LADY SINGS. BACK TO YOU, BUZZ!
HMM...
THANKS, MISSY. AND THAT TAKES US TO OUR NEXT STORY. ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE PREMIERE THAT HAS THE OPERA WORLD ON THE EDGE OF ITS SEAT--
ENOUGH!
ZAP

Walt Disney

# DOUBLEDUCK

# BEFORE THE PREMIERE

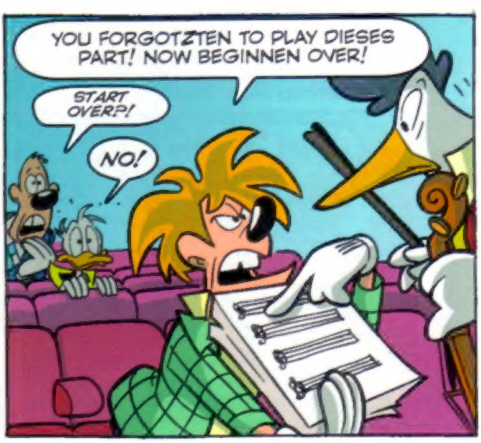

SO, GENTLEMEN, THAT'S THE SITUATION. OUR TIME IS NOW!
WE'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS FOR YEARS AND IN A FEW DAYS WE'RE GOING TO GET BACK TEN TIMES THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WE PUT INTO THIS OPERATION.
IN SHORT, THE MUSIC IS ABOUT TO CHANGE!
THIS MUSIC ALL SOUNDS THE SAME: BORING!
FIUUFIUUFIUU
THE CANASTA CLUB PRESENTS: KARLHEINZ STRONHEIM IN CONCERT
I MUST...KEEP... MY EYES...OPEN.
DONALD! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BLINKED! YOU MUST BE LOVING THE SHOW!

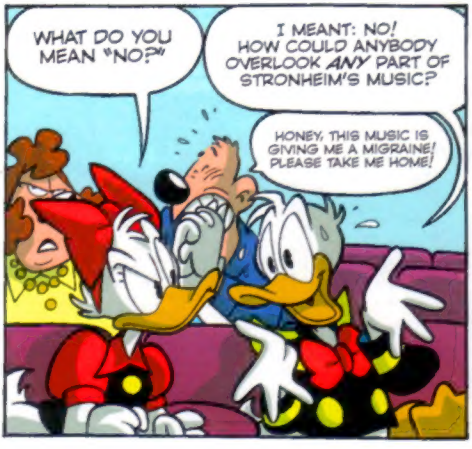

HONESTLY, DAISY, IT FEELS LIKE A NEVER-ENDING DREAM.
I KNOW JUST WHAT YOU MEAN! AND WE'RE ONLY *HALFWAY* THROUGH THE FIRST ACT!

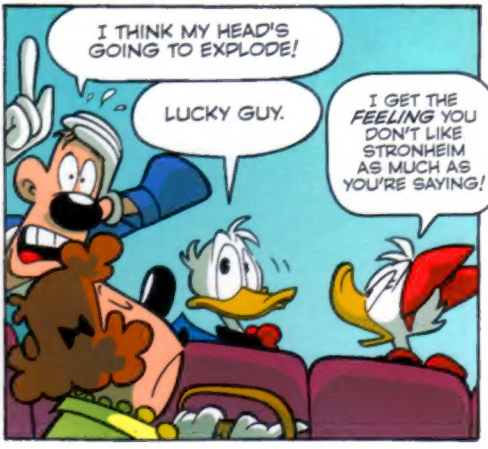
HALFWAY THROUGH... *GASP!*...I MEAN...ALREADY?
I KNOW! BUT WE CAN COME AGAIN FOR MY BIRTHDAY!

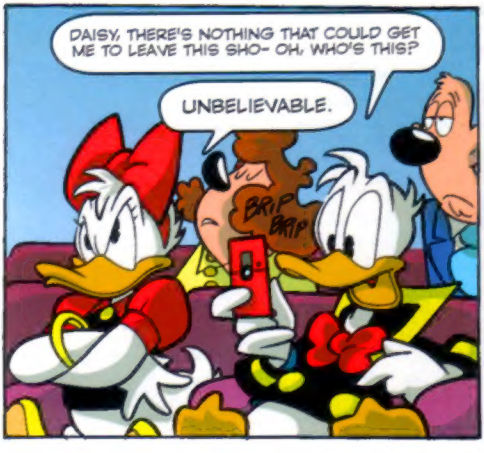
HEY FELLA, I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE. IF I FAKE AN ILLNESS WOULD YOU HELP ME OUT THE DOOR?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? SHE'D BUST ME RIGHT AS—*HUH?*
*HALT!* STOP ZE MUSIK! ZIS INSTANCE!

YOU MUSIKANTEN INKOMPETENTEN!
WHO'S THAT MANIAC?
THAT *MANIAC* IS THE GENIUS *MUSIC DIRECTOR KARLHEINZ STRONHEIM!*


YOU FORGOTZTEN TO PLAY DIESES PART! NOW BEGINNEN OVER!
*START OVER?!*
*NO!*


WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NO?"
I MEANT: NO! HOW COULD ANYBODY OVERLOOK *ANY* PART OF STRONHEIM'S MUSIC?
HONEY, THIS MUSIC IS GIVING ME A MIGRAINE! PLEASE TAKE ME HOME!


I THINK MY HEAD'S GOING TO EXPLODE!
LUCKY GUY.
I GET THE *FEELING* YOU DON'T LIKE STRONHEIM AS MUCH AS YOU'RE SAYING!

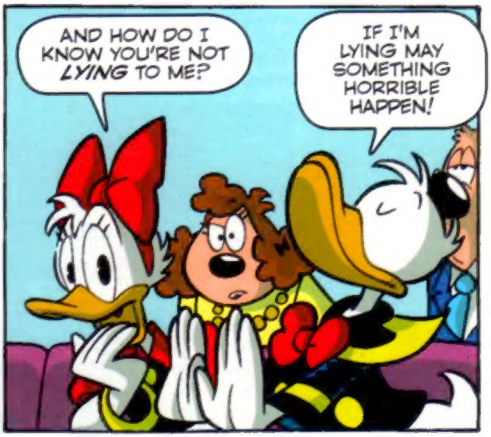

DAISY, THERE'S NOTHING THAT COULD GET ME TO LEAVE THIS SHO- OH, WHO'S THIS?
UNBELIEVABLE.
BRIP BRIP

ER...IT'S UNCLE SCROOGE!
AND WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH YOU AT THIS HOUR?
SMS
THE AGENCY
MR. JAY J
REPLY

WELL, YOU KNOW, THE USUAL! POLISH THE COINS, LEAVE FOR A MISSION TO A DESERTED ISLAND, UPDATE ME ON MY LIST OF DEBTS...
*ITSA?*
...YOU'RE NOT GONNA BUY THAT ARE YOU?

MEN ARE ALL THE SAME. YOU ASK THEM TO TAKE YOU OUT FOR ONE NIGHT AND ALL THEY DO IS LIE TO GET OUT OF IT.
RIGHT. JUST LIKE THE MUSEUM GAVE YOU STOMACH CRAMPS! LIES! ALL LIES!
THIS MUSIC HURTS MY HEAD...

I HATE TO GO. I WISH I COULD STAY. THE MUSIC...AMAZING! MY JOB...BORING! BUT WHAT CAN I DO? THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!

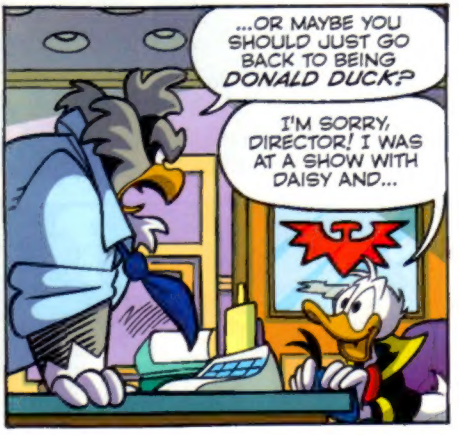

AND HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT *LYING* TO ME?
IF I'M LYING MAY SOMETHING HORRIBLE HAPPEN!

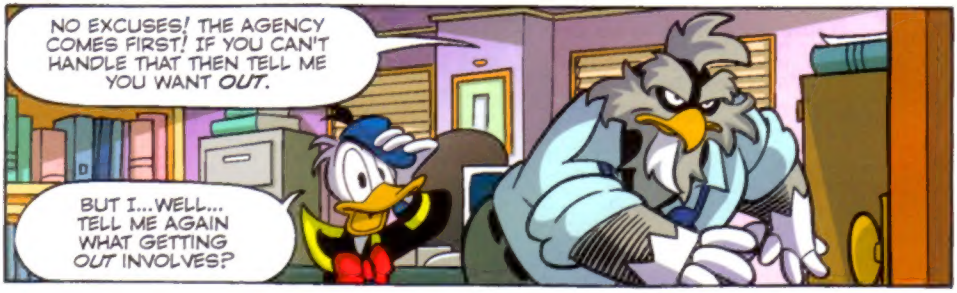
S.BROING

MY STRINGS! THEY BROKE! THIS IS HORRIBLE!
I'M SURE THAT WAS A COINCIDENCE. OH, WELL, TIME TO GO!

I FORGOT ABOUT MY APPOINTMENT WITH THE AGENCY! I HOPE JAY J ISN'T GOING TO BE UPSET!

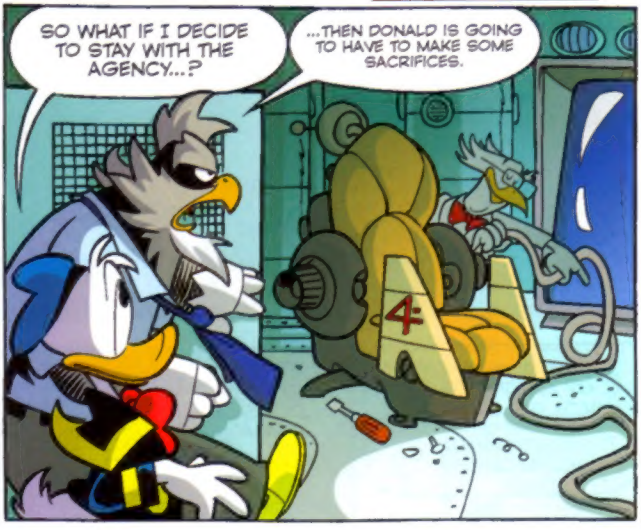
OF COURSE I'M UPSET, *DOUBLE DUCK*...


...OR MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST GO BACK TO BEING *DONALD DUCK*?
I'M SORRY, DIRECTOR! I WAS AT A SHOW WITH DAISY AND...


NO EXCUSES! THE AGENCY COMES FIRST! IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE THAT THEN TELL ME YOU WANT *OUT*.
BUT I...WELL... TELL ME AGAIN WHAT GETTING *OUT* INVOLVES?

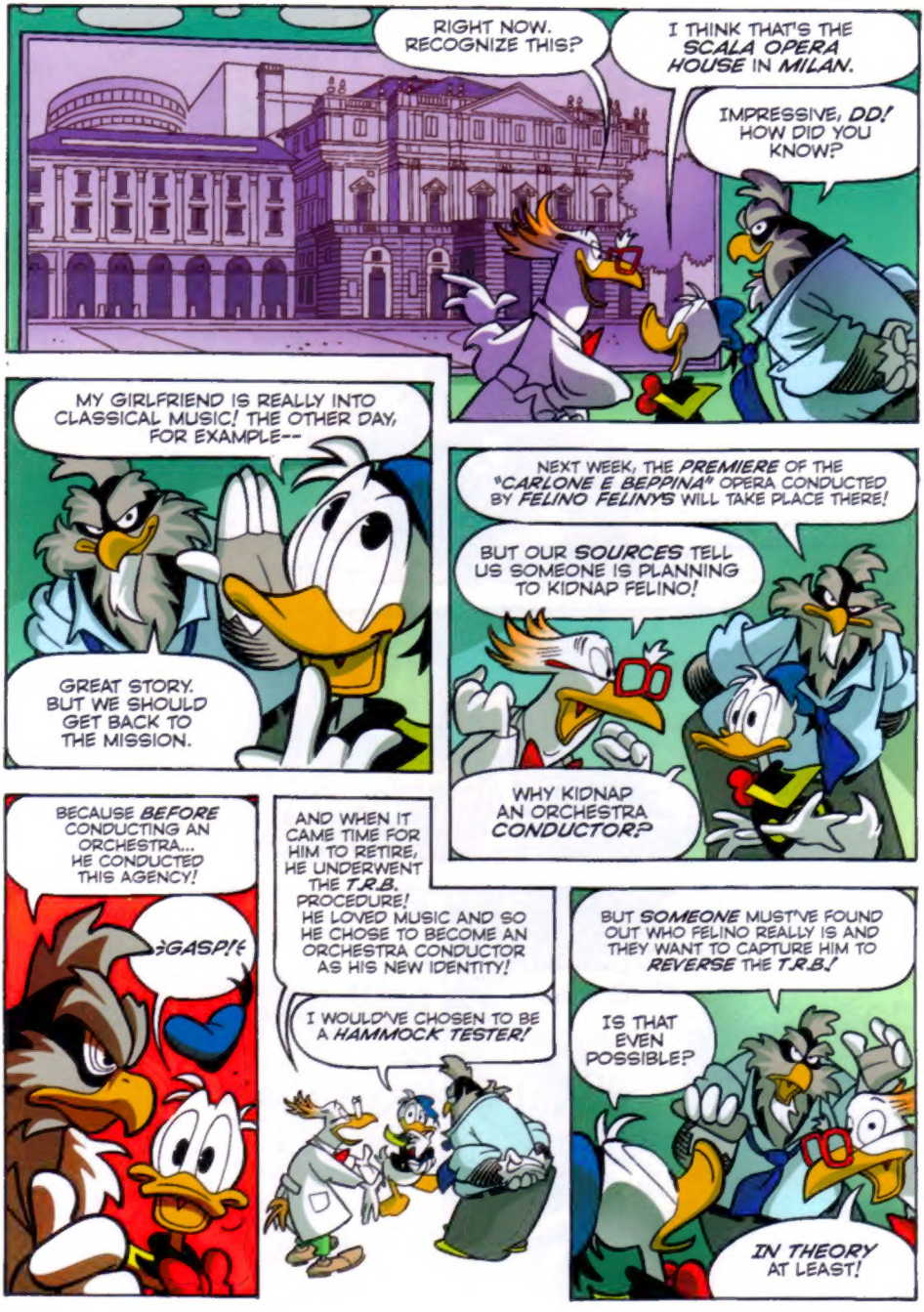
THE ***T.R.B. TOTAL RESET BUTTON PROCEDURE.*** IT WIPES OUT COMPROMISING MEMORIES OF THE AGENTS WHO WISH TO BE DEACTIVATED!
*ALL* THE MEMORIES?

ONLY THE ONES REGARDING THE AGENCY. YOUR OTHER MEMORIES ARE YOURS TO KEEP, BUT YOU WON'T REMEMBER EVER HAVING BEEN A SECRET AGENT!
OH YEAH! JUST LIKE I WAS BEFORE MY LAST MISSION.*
*WAY BACK IN DONALD DUCK & FRIENDS 347 KIDS! - C.B.

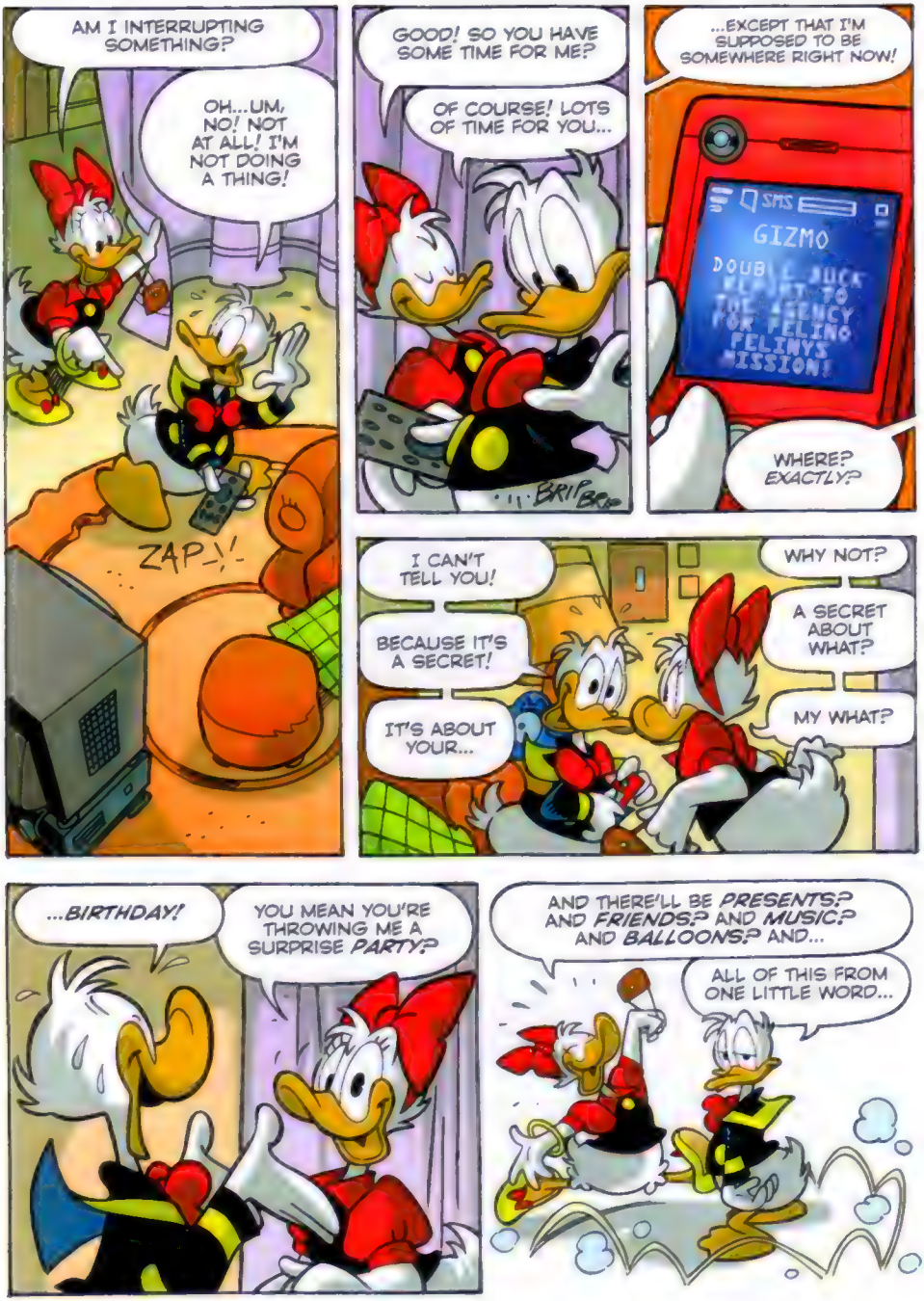

SO WHAT IF I DECIDE TO STAY WITH THE AGENCY...?
...THEN DONALD IS GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE SOME SACRIFICES.

I GUESS BEING A HERO ISN'T ALWAYS EASY.
WELL? ARE YOU IN OR OUT?

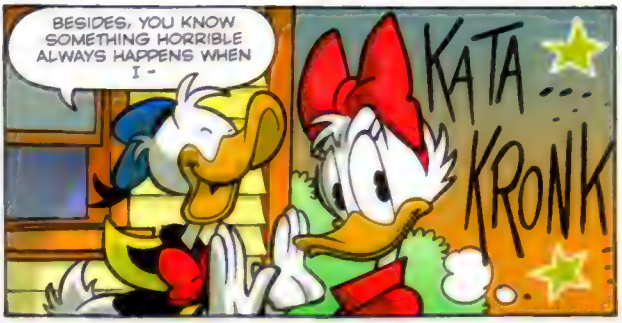
ALL RIGHT, I'LL STAY!
GOOD! BECAUSE I'VE GOT ANOTHER MISSION FOR YOU!
OH... NOW?

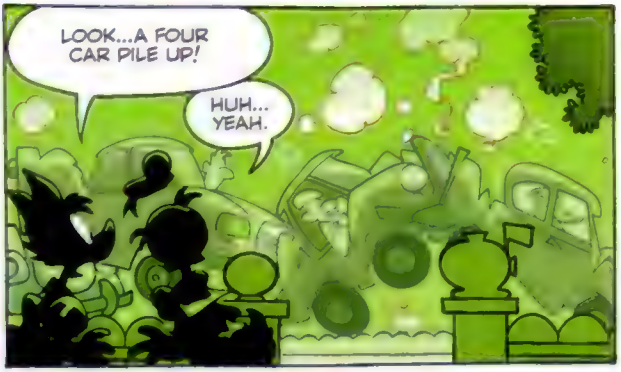

RIGHT NOW. RECOGNIZE THIS?
I THINK THAT'S THE SCALA OPERA HOUSE IN MILAN.
IMPRESSIVE, DD! HOW DID YOU KNOW?
MY GIRLFRIEND IS REALLY INTO CLASSICAL MUSIC! THE OTHER DAY, FOR EXAMPLE--
GREAT STORY. BUT WE SHOULD GET BACK TO THE MISSION.
NEXT WEEK, THE PREMIERE OF THE "CARLONE E BEPPINA" OPERA CONDUCTED BY FELINO FELINYS WILL TAKE PLACE THERE!
BUT OUR SOURCES TELL US SOMEONE IS PLANNING TO KIDNAP FELINO!
WHY KIDNAP AN ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR?
BECAUSE BEFORE CONDUCTING AN ORCHESTRA... HE CONDUCTED THIS AGENCY!
GASP!
AND WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR HIM TO RETIRE, HE UNDERWENT THE T.R.B. PROCEDURE! HE LOVED MUSIC AND SO HE CHOSE TO BECOME AN ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR AS HIS NEW IDENTITY!
I WOULD'VE CHOSEN TO BE A HAMMOCK TESTER!
BUT SOMEONE MUST'VE FOUND OUT WHO FELINO REALLY IS AND THEY WANT TO CAPTURE HIM TO REVERSE THE T.R.B.!
IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
IN THEORY AT LEAST!

IF THEY SUCCEED, THIS ENTIRE AGENCY WILL BE VULNERABLE.
BUT WHO EXACTLY IS THEY?
WE BELIEVE IT'S "THE ORGANIZATION!" OUR NUMBER ONE ENEMY!
GULP!
GULP! OKAY!
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IS ON THIS DISC. WATCH IT TONIGHT!
THE NEXT DAY...
THE ORGANIZATION HAS INVOLVED ITSELF IN ALL FORMS OF LUCRATIVE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY SUCH AS ARMS TRAFFICKING, AND RADIOACTIVE AND NUCLEAR WASTE!
REAL HUMANITARIANS...
THEY'VE ALSO BEEN KNOWN TO TRY AND HACK SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS!
DRIINNNG
WHO'S HERE?
DAISY!
WOW, YOU STILL REMEMBER ME AFTER ALL THIS TIME!


AM I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING?
OH...UM, NO! NOT AT ALL! I'M NOT DOING A THING!
ZAP
GOOD! SO YOU HAVE SOME TIME FOR ME?
OF COURSE! LOTS OF TIME FOR YOU...
...EXCEPT THAT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SOMEWHERE RIGHT NOW!
SMS
GIZMO
WHERE? EXACTLY?
I CAN'T TELL YOU!
BECAUSE IT'S A SECRET!
IT'S ABOUT YOUR...
WHY NOT?
A SECRET ABOUT WHAT?
MY WHAT?
...BIRTHDAY!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE THROWING ME A SURPRISE PARTY?
AND THERE'LL BE PRESENTS? AND FRIENDS? AND MUSIC? AND BALLOONS? AND...
ALL OF THIS FROM ONE LITTLE WORD...

OH, DONALD. ARE YOU REALLY TELLING ME THE TRUTH?
I COULDN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

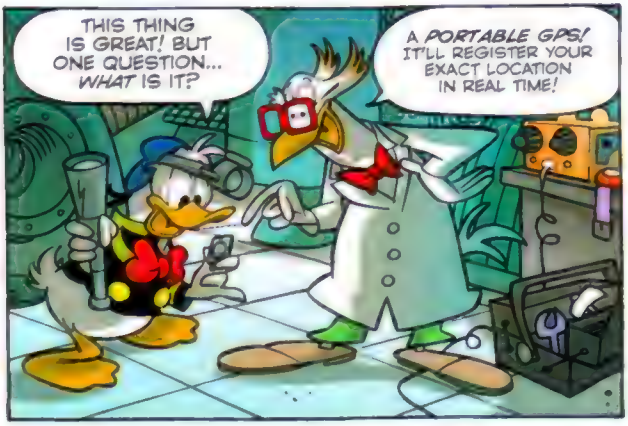

BESIDES, YOU KNOW SOMETHING HORRIBLE ALWAYS HAPPENS WHEN I -
KATA
KRONK

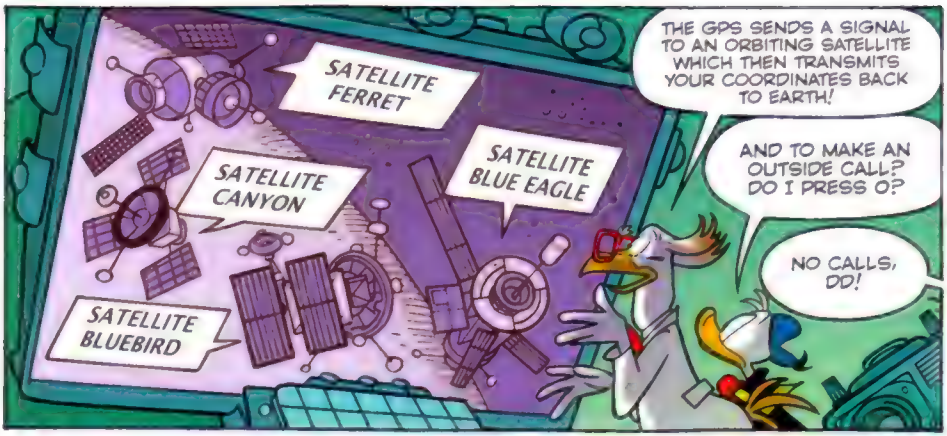

LOOK...A FOUR CAR PILE UP!
HUH... YEAH.

WHAT A COINCIDENCE...BECAUSE I'M GOING TO HAVE A *PILE* OF PRESENTS FOR YOU!
OH, I LOVE PRESENTS! I CAN'T WAIT!

WHEN AM I GOING TO FIND THE TIME TO DO ALL THAT FOR DAISY'S BIRTHDAY? AND HOW CAN I AFFORD A PILE OF PRESENTS? OH, WELL... LET'S SEE WHAT PRESENTS *GIZMO* HAS FOR *ME*

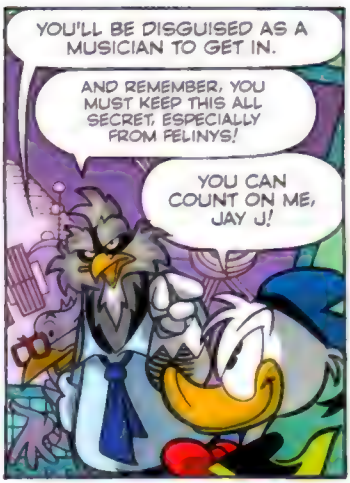
HERE'S YOUR *EQUIPMENT* FOR THE MISSION, *DD!*


THIS THING IS GREAT! BUT ONE QUESTION... *WHAT* IS IT?
A *PORTABLE GPS!* IT'LL REGISTER YOUR EXACT LOCATION IN REAL TIME!

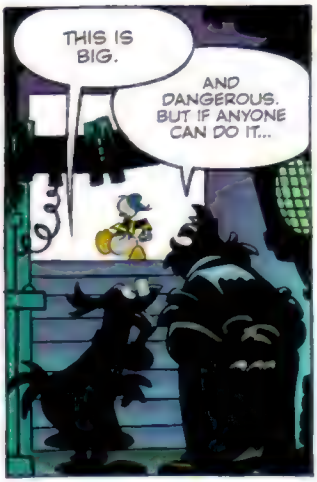

SATELLITE FERRET
SATELLITE CANYON
SATELLITE BLUE EAGLE
SATELLITE BLUEBIRD
THE GPS SENDS A SIGNAL TO AN ORBITING SATELLITE WHICH THEN TRANSMITS YOUR COORDINATES BACK TO EARTH!
AND TO MAKE AN OUTSIDE CALL? DO I PRESS 0?
NO CALLS, DD!

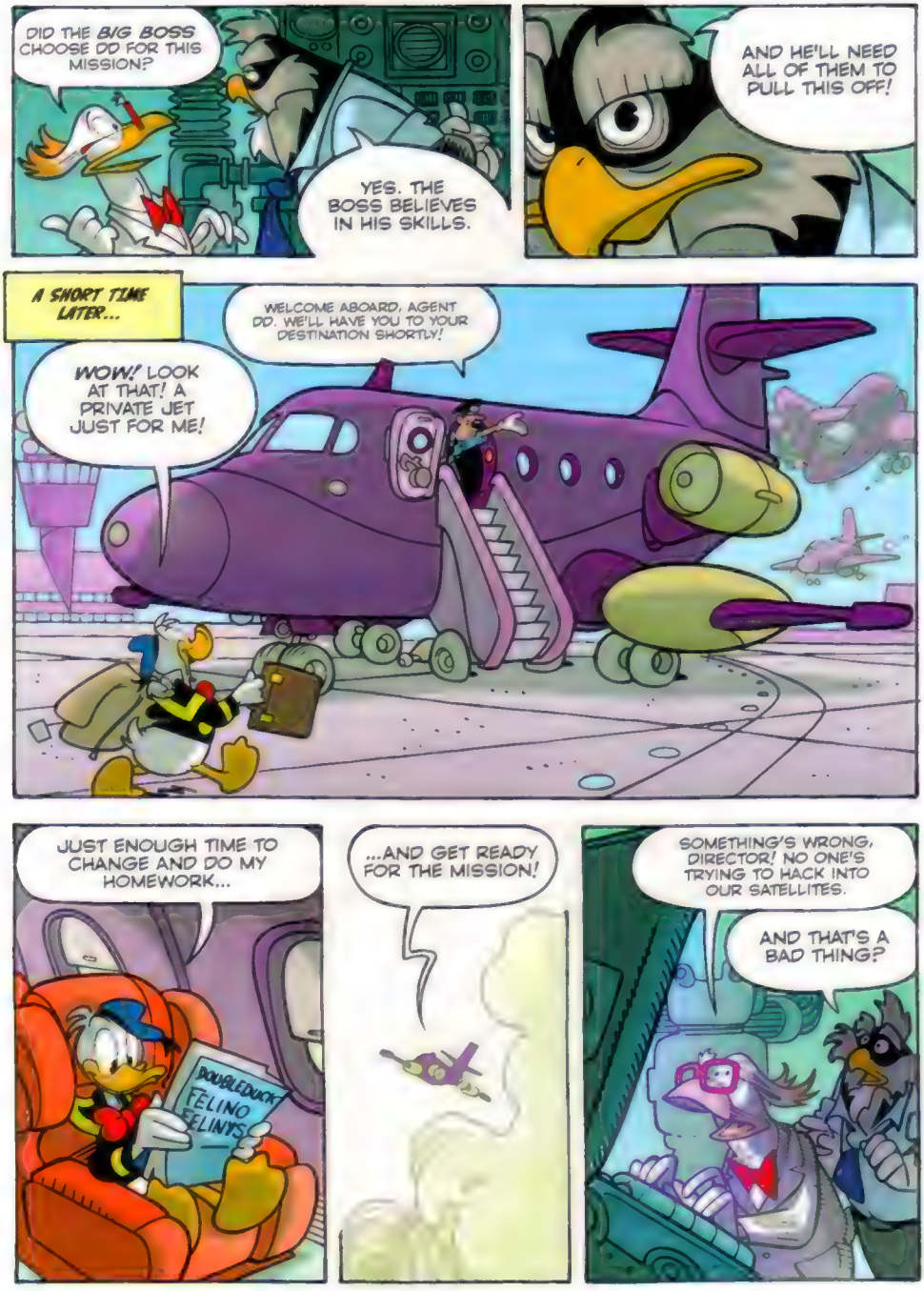
THE OPERA HOUSE IS A COMM-FREE ZONE! NO CELL PHONES, NO COMPUTERS, NO WALKIE-TALKIES!
FOR "ARTISTIC REASONS," THEY SAY!

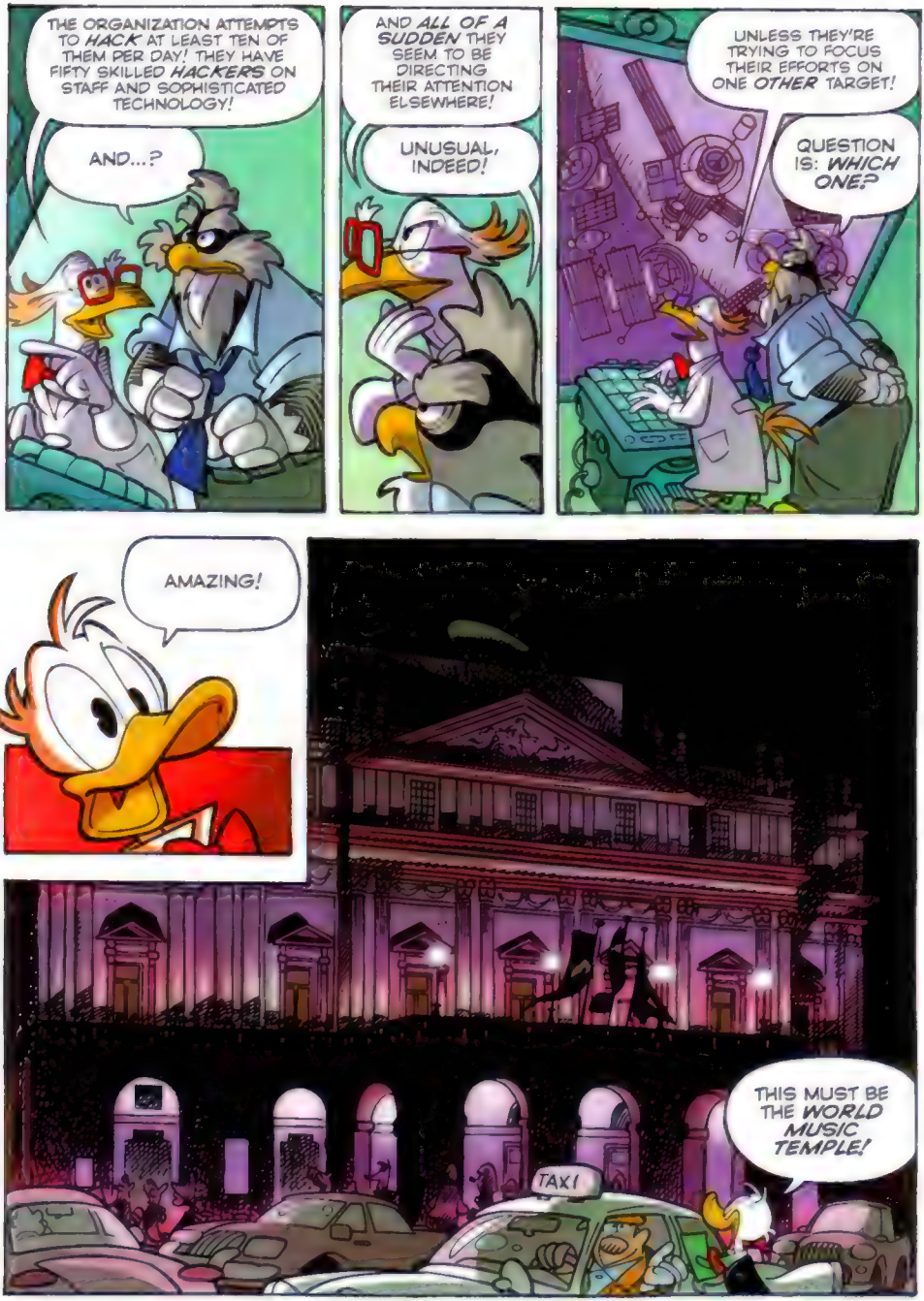
"SECURITY WILL BE TIGHT THERE WHICH IS GOOD FOR FELINYS, BUT BAD FOR YOU"


YOU'LL BE DISGUISED AS A MUSICIAN TO GET IN.
AND REMEMBER, YOU MUST KEEP THIS ALL SECRET, ESPECIALLY FROM FELINYS!
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, JAY J!

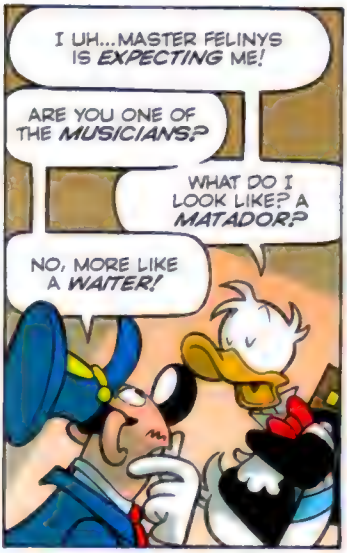
I KNOW I CAN, DD. GOOD LUCK!
YOU DON'T NEED LUCK WHEN YOU'RE AS GOOD AS I AM...BUT THANKS!!


THIS IS BIG.
AND DANGEROUS. BUT IF ANYONE CAN DO IT...


DID THE BIG BOSS CHOOSE DD FOR THIS MISSION?
YES. THE BOSS BELIEVES IN HIS SKILLS.
AND HE'LL NEED ALL OF THEM TO PULL THIS OFF!
A SHORT TIME LATER...
WELCOME ABOARD, AGENT DD. WE'LL HAVE YOU TO YOUR DESTINATION SHORTLY!
WOW! LOOK AT THAT! A PRIVATE JET JUST FOR ME!
JUST ENOUGH TIME TO CHANGE AND DO MY HOMEWORK...
DOUBLEDUCK FELINO FELINTS
...AND GET READY FOR THE MISSION!
SOMETHING'S WRONG, DIRECTOR! NO ONE'S TRYING TO HACK INTO OUR SATELLITES.
AND THAT'S A BAD THING?

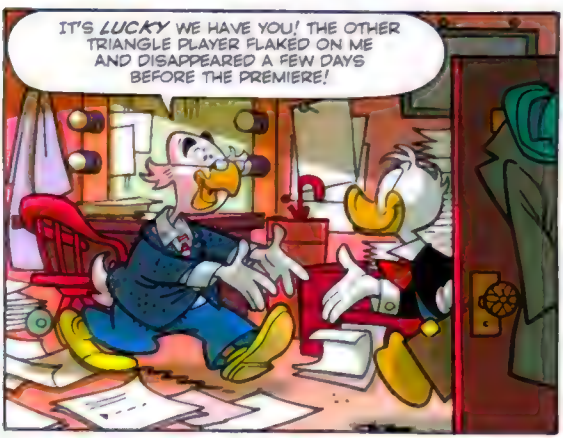

THE ORGANIZATION ATTEMPTS TO HACK AT LEAST TEN OF THEM PER DAY! THEY HAVE FIFTY SKILLED HACKERS ON STAFF AND SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY!
AND...?
AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THEY SEEM TO BE DIRECTING THEIR ATTENTION ELSEWHERE!
UNUSUAL, INDEED!
UNLESS THEY'RE TRYING TO FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS ON ONE OTHER TARGET!
QUESTION IS: WHICH ONE?
AMAZING!
TAXI
THIS MUST BE THE WORLD MUSIC TEMPLE!

NOW THAT I'M HERE, WHAT DO I DO?
EXACTLY!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?


I UH...MASTER FELINYS IS *EXPECTING* ME!
ARE YOU ONE OF THE *MUSICIANS*?
WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE? A *MATADOR*?
NO, MORE LIKE A *WAITER!*

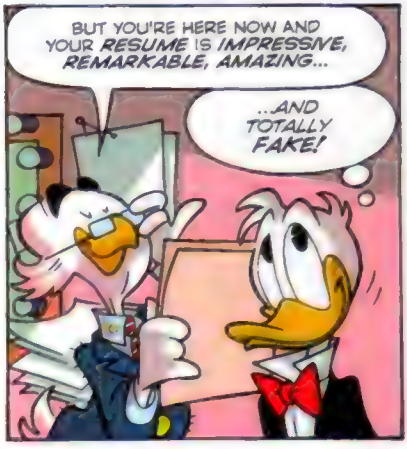
ANYWAYS, THE CONDUCTOR'S OFFICE IS DOWN THE HALLWAY!
HRMP! A WAITER, INDEED!
SECURITY'S EVERYWHERE AROUND HERE! ALL THE BETTER.

MAY I COME IN? I'M THE SUBSTITUTE *TRIANGLE PLAYER*, MAESTRO!
AH, YES! DO COME IN!


IT'S *LUCKY* WE HAVE YOU! THE OTHER TRIANGLE PLAYER FLAKED ON ME AND DISAPPEARED A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE PREMIERE!

IT SEEMS HE HAD THE WRONG FLIGHT OR SOMETHING! I DON'T KNOW *WHERE* IN THE WORLD HE COULD BE!
GUESS HE DOESN'T KNOW THE AGENCY MANAGED TO...

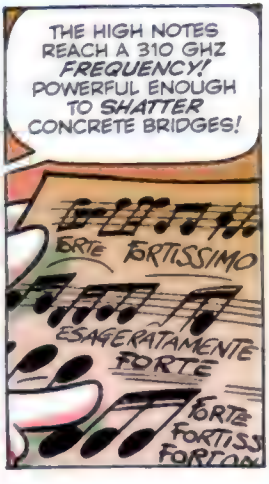
"...ARRANGE A DIFFERENT GIG FOR HIM!"
AHIAHIII!
....
AAAAAHIII!
AHI-AHIA-HIAHI-AIIIIIII!
ORQUESTRINA DE GUADALAJARA
TING


BUT YOU'RE HERE NOW AND YOUR RESUME IS IMPRESSIVE, REMARKABLE, AMAZING...
..AND TOTALLY FAKE!

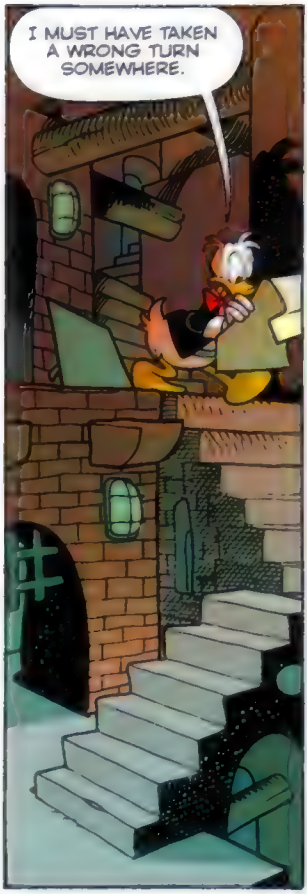
AS YOU KNOW, "CARLONE E BEPPINA" IS ONE OF THE MOST TRYING SYMPHONIES EVER COMPOSED!
SURE! ABSOLUTELY!

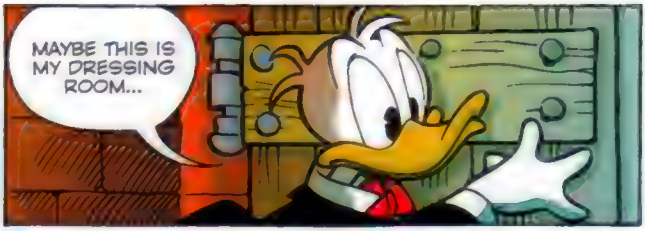
AND THE ENTIRE PIECE CLIMAXES IN AN AMAZING CRESCENDO FOR BOTH THE SINGERS AND THE ORCHESTRA!
UH-HUH. I SEE...
Carlone e Beppina

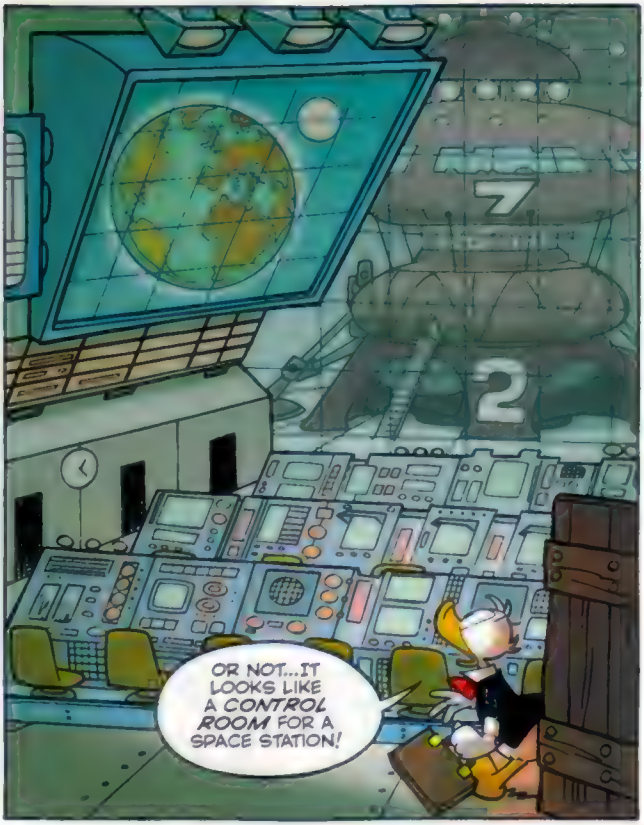
BUT SO FAR NO ONE HAS EVER PLAYED THE FULL COMPLEXITIES OF THIS MUSIC PIECE BECAUSE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT CRESCENDO!
WHAT CONSEQUENCES?


THE HIGH NOTES REACH A 310 GHZ FREQUENCY! POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SHATTER CONCRETE BRIDGES!
FORTE FORTISSIMO
ESAGERATAMENTE FORTE
FORTE FORTISS

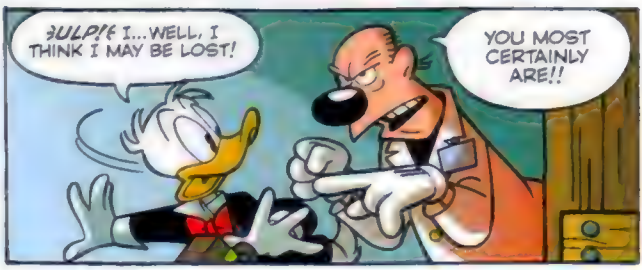
BUT WE ARE GOING TO DO IT ALL! BECAUSE WE'RE ARTISTS!
RIGHT! THAT'S US!
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO YOUR FELLOW MUSICIANS, ALL AMAZING TALENTS!
HOW DO YOU DO...UH... COLLEAGUES?
AND HERE COME THE OPERA SINGERS WHO WILL PLAY THE HANDSOME CARLONE AND THE TINY BEPPINA...
...THE SOPRANO ANJA KAROTIDENKAYA AND THE TENOR FRANCISCO DE TONSIGLIA!
SVARENSKA DOBROSKY!
EM...SAME HERE!
OLÉ!
THE FINAL REHEARSAL WILL BEGIN SOON, BUT UNTIL THEN, YOU CAN REST IN YOUR DRESSING ROOM! LET ME GIVE YOU A MAP!
A MAP?!
THE THEATER IS SO EXPANSIVE, IT'S LIKE A MAZE!
I'M NOT VERY GOOD WITH DIRECTIONS...


I MUST HAVE TAKEN A WRONG TURN SOMEWHERE.


MAYBE THIS IS MY DRESSING ROOM...

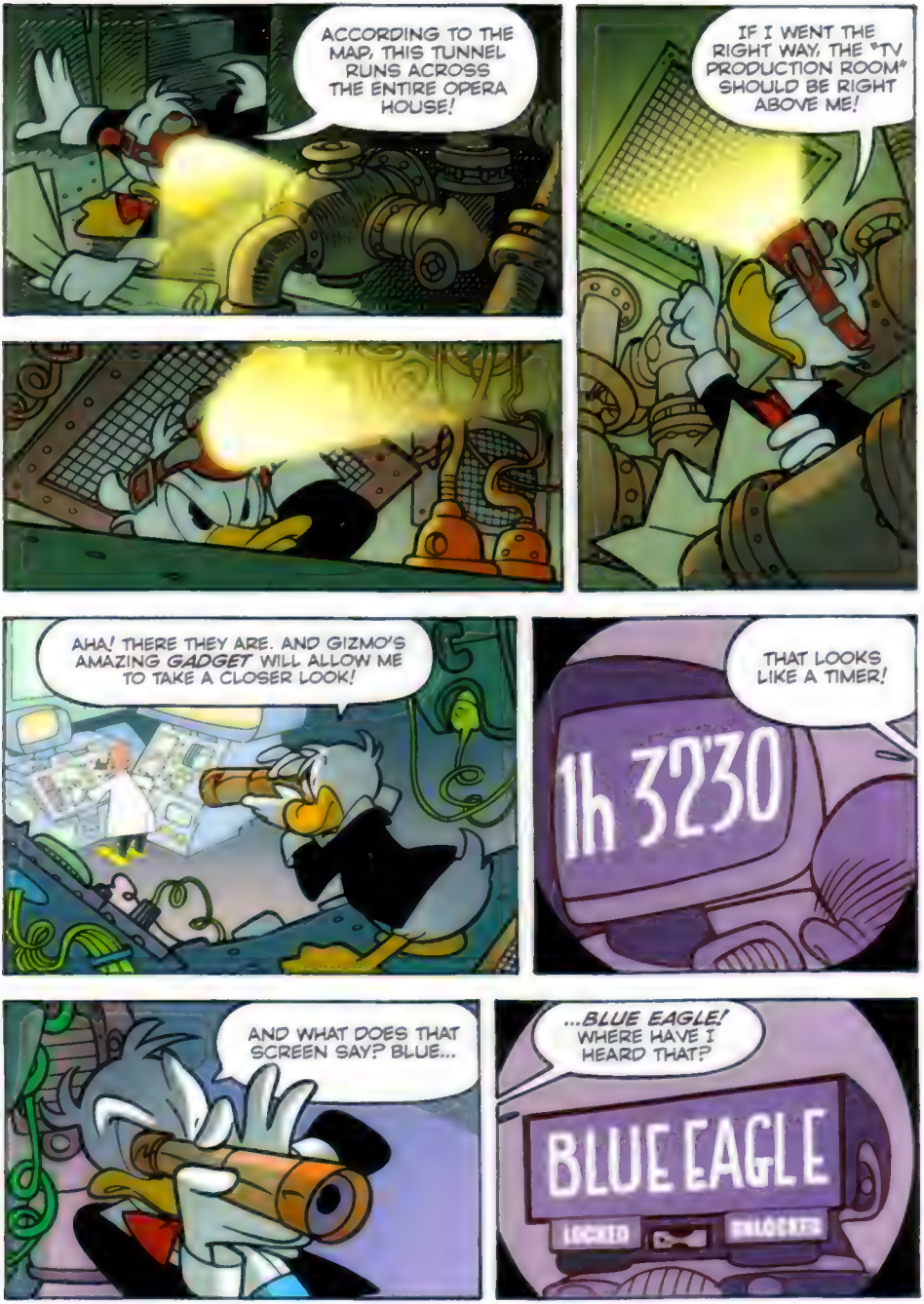

OR NOT...IT LOOKS LIKE A CONTROL ROOM FOR A SPACE STATION!

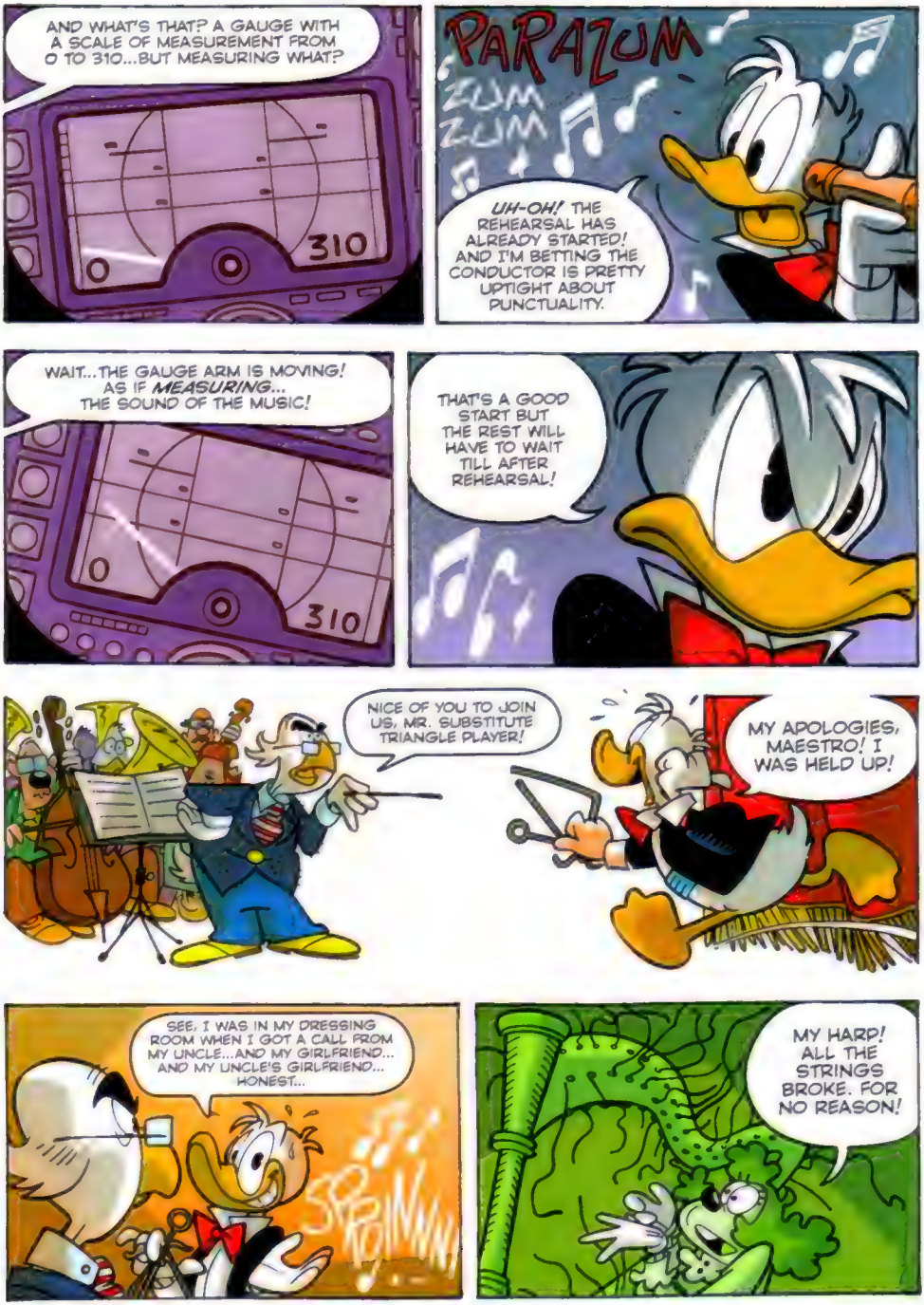
WHAT IS THIS ALL FOR?
CAN I HELP YOU?


GULP!( I...WELL, I THINK I MAY BE LOST!
YOU MOST CERTAINLY ARE!!

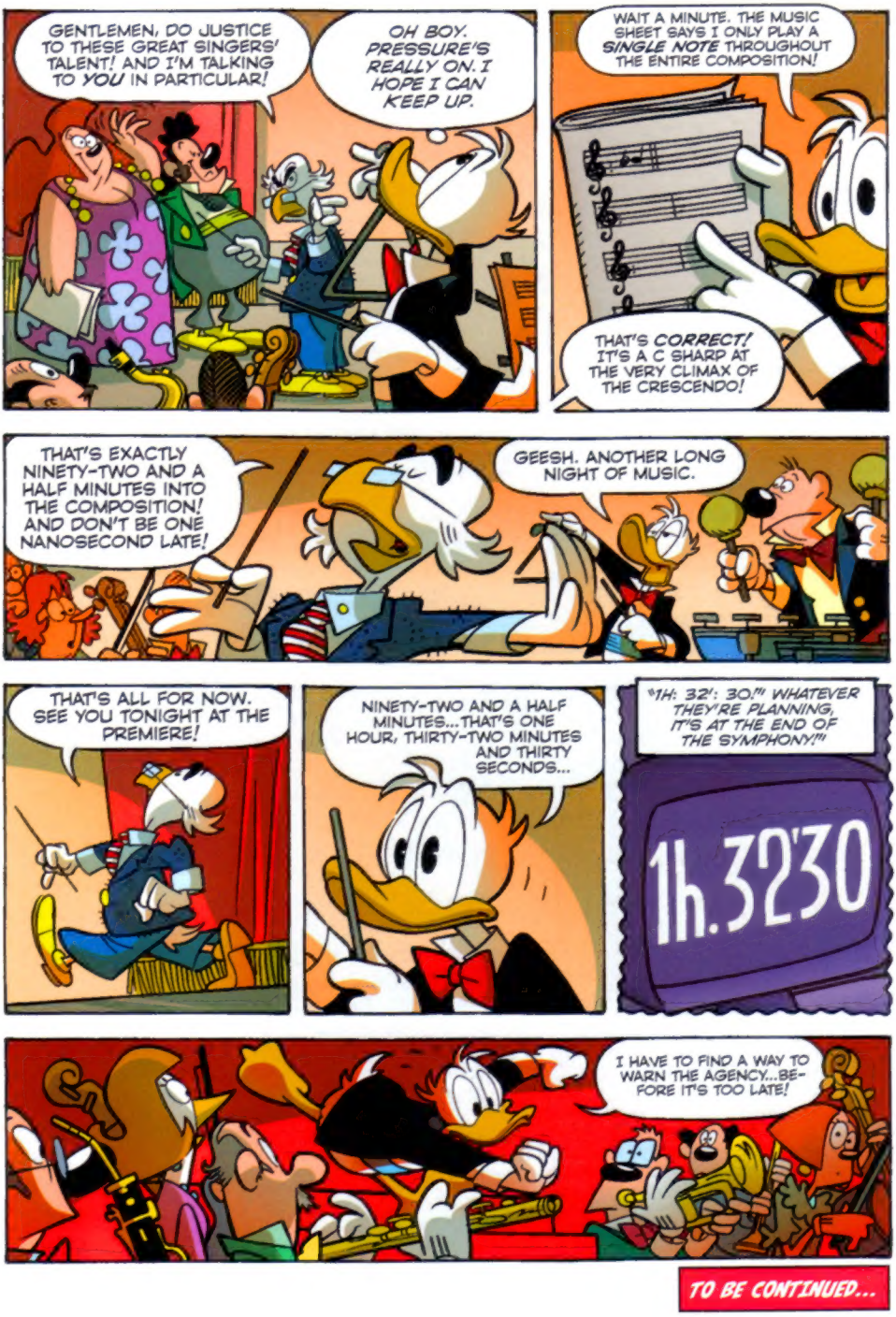
I, UH...I PLAY THE SQUARE, I MEAN, THE CIRCLE... NO, THE TRIANGLE!
THE DRESSING ROOMS ARE BACK THIS WAY!
GREAT, BUT, WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS TECHNO-SET UP?
IT'S THE...TV PRODUCTION ROOM FOR LIVE BROADCASTING OF THE EVENT!
LIVE BROADCASTING IN A COMM-FREE ZONE? NOT VERY LIKELY!
HEY, YOU! LISTEN UP!
UH-OH! I'VE BEEN MADE!
IS THIS THING YOURS?
AH, YES, THAT IS MY...UM... TUNER!
YOU NEED A TUNER FOR A TRIANGLE?
OF COURSE, IT'S CRUCIAL FOR ACCURATELY TUNING-UP THE C SHARP! HERE, LISTEN...
TINNNG...
MMMH...

MEANWHILE...
LET'S BEGIN THE FINAL REHEARSAL! IS EVERYONE HERE?
EVERYONE BUT THE TRIANGLE PLAYER!
AND WHERE IS HE? I CAN'T STAND AGENTS WHO DON'T SHOW UP ON TIME!
"AGENTS?"
AGENTS? DID I SAY AGENTS? I MEANT MUSICIANS!
WELL WE CAN'T WAIT. REMEMBER...I WANT YOUR BEST! "CARLONE E BEPPINA" IS A VERY DEMANDING MISSION!
"MISSION?"
I MEANT COMPOSITION! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME TODAY?
I NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE! SOMETHING ABOUT THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.


ACCORDING TO THE MAP, THIS TUNNEL RUNS ACROSS THE ENTIRE OPERA HOUSE!
IF I WENT THE RIGHT WAY, THE "TV PRODUCTION ROOM" SHOULD BE RIGHT ABOVE ME!
AHA! THERE THEY ARE. AND GIZMO'S AMAZING GADGET WILL ALLOW ME TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!
THAT LOOKS LIKE A TIMER!
1h 32'30
AND WHAT DOES THAT SCREEN SAY? BLUE...
...BLUE EAGLE! WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT?
BLUE EAGLE
LOCKED
UNLOCKED


AND WHAT'S THAT? A GAUGE WITH A SCALE OF MEASUREMENT FROM 0 TO 310...BUT MEASURING WHAT?
0
310
PARAZUM
ZUM
ZUM
UH-OH! THE REHEARSAL HAS ALREADY STARTED! AND I'M BETTING THE CONDUCTOR IS PRETTY UPTIGHT ABOUT PUNCTUALITY.
WAIT...THE GAUGE ARM IS MOVING! AS IF MEASURING... THE SOUND OF THE MUSIC!
0
310
THAT'S A GOOD START BUT THE REST WILL HAVE TO WAIT TILL AFTER REHEARSAL!
NICE OF YOU TO JOIN US, MR. SUBSTITUTE TRIANGLE PLAYER!
MY APOLOGIES, MAESTRO! I WAS HELD UP!
SEE, I WAS IN MY DRESSING ROOM WHEN I GOT A CALL FROM MY UNCLE...AND MY GIRLFRIEND... AND MY UNCLE'S GIRLFRIEND... HONEST...
SPROINNN
MY HARP! ALL THE STRINGS BROKE. FOR NO REASON!

ENOUGH EXCUSES, TAKE YOUR SEAT!
CERTAINLY!
HELLO, FRIEND! YOU'RE LOOKING NICE.
MINCE? NO I'VE NEVER BEEN.
I'M SORRY, BUT ARE YOU A BIT HARD OF HEARING?
I DON'T HEAR ANY RINGING. WHY? DO YOU?
LET'S TRY THE CRESCENDO WITH JUST THE SINGERS! WHENEVER YOU'RE READY!
AND A ONE AND A TWO...
WITH A DO...
DOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
KRAAAK
FANTASTICO! WE'RE GOING TO BRING THE HOUSE DOWN!
STURMTRUPPEN!
ANDALE!


GENTLEMEN, DO JUSTICE TO THESE GREAT SINGERS' TALENT! AND I'M TALKING TO *YOU* IN PARTICULAR!
OH BOY. PRESSURE'S REALLY ON. I HOPE I CAN KEEP UP.
WAIT A MINUTE. THE MUSIC SHEET SAYS I ONLY PLAY A *SINGLE NOTE* THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COMPOSITION!
THAT'S *CORRECT!* IT'S A C SHARP AT THE VERY CLIMAX OF THE CRESCENDO!
THAT'S EXACTLY NINETY-TWO AND A HALF MINUTES INTO THE COMPOSITION! AND DON'T BE ONE NANOSECOND LATE!
GEESH. ANOTHER LONG NIGHT OF MUSIC.
THAT'S ALL FOR NOW. SEE YOU TONIGHT AT THE PREMIERE!
NINETY-TWO AND A HALF MINUTES...THAT'S ONE HOUR, THIRTY-TWO MINUTES AND THIRTY SECONDS...
"1H: 32': 30."! WHATEVER THEY'RE PLANNING, IT'S AT THE END OF THE SYMPHONY!"!
1h.32'30
I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO WARN THE AGENCY...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
TO BE CONTINUED...

## MANIFEST DESTINY

It's funny how things work out sometimes.

Although I was a teenager when the Disney Afternoon programming block debuted in September of 1990, I was all in. DUCKTALES was the coolest cartoon going at that time, bringing a loose version of Carl Barks' Uncle Scrooge stories to the small screen. I'd sit next to my younger brother Josh, and we'd watch the adventures of Scrooge McDuck unfold, along with DISNEY'S ADVENTURES OF THE GUMMI BEARS, CHIP & DALE'S RESCUE RANGERS and TALESPIN. In our minds, a programming block couldn't get any more fun.

Then in 1991, we were introduced to DARKWING DUCK.

The brainchild of Tad Stones, DARKWING DUCK was a spin-off of DUCKTALES and was unlike almost any Disney project that preceded it. A genre parody, it focused on action and adventure, and featured Drake Mallard as the self-styled "Terror That Flaps In The Night". With sidekick Launchpad McQuack and adopted daughter Gosalyn along for the ride, the show was a mash-up of superheroes, pulp adventure and spy fiction.

My brother and I were hooked instantly.

An aspiring artist at the time, I doodled Darkwing relentlessly. I bought pretty much any piece of merchandise Disney slapped him on to. (I even still have a sealed box of DARKWING DUCK valentines.) Even though I was still technically a kid, I swore to myself that someday...SOMEDAY...I would work on a Darkwing Duck project in some form or another.

Flash forward to June 2009. On my first day as BOOM Kids! Disney/PIXAR editor, one of the first questions I asked was "So when can we do a DARKWING DUCK series"?

Now, in June 2010, exactly one year later...the first issue of that book will be on the shelves. And in that same month, we'll be launching a DUCKTALES arc in the pages of UNCLE SCROOGE #392. The Disney Afternoon is back, just in time to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

So if you love Uncle Scrooge and Darkwing Duck as much as I do (and if you're reading this, it's a safe bet you do), then call your local comic shop and tell them to reserve you a copy (or two!) of UNCLE SCROOGE #392 and DARKWING DUCK #1!

The Disney Afternoon is back! My inner child could not be more excited!

*-Aaron Sparrow, Editor*

*Contact us at:*
*boomkids@boom-studios.com*
*or via snail mail at:*
*BOOM Kids!*
*6310 San Vicente Ave. Ste. 404*
*Los Angeles, CA 90048*

ROSS RICHIE
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BIG. BOLD. BOOM!

## WRITER OF THE MONTH: IAN BRILL

*So how did the DARKWING DUCK book come about?*

Editor Aaron Sparrow and I were having conversations about our favorite Disney characters and pretty soon Darkwing came up. We started thinking of what you could do with the character and felt pretty confident we could craft a story worth telling. Things snowballed from there and I'm honored to have the power of the mighty BOOM! machine behind this book.

*DARKWING DUCK has been out of syndication for over ten years. Do you think it's a property kids who may not have seen the show can still respond to?*

Hopefully they'll see this character on the cover that's Donald Duck-meets-Batman, get interested and enjoy the book. It won't talk down or pander to them, it'll just promise and deliver a fun ride. I don't worry about the demographics of the audience, I worry about hitting those primal feelings that make a story meaningful: adventure, a sense of family, a desire for justice to be done. Hopefully if I get those ideas across, well, people will be on board, no matter what age.

*What do you see as the core elements of the character?*

I think the central dynamic of the show is Darkwing depending on Launchpad and Gosalyn. He depends on them to temper his ego. Darkwing's genuinely dedicated to justice but he rarely questions himself. Gosalyn and Launchpad, in their own respective ways, bring him back down to Earth. At the same time, Launchpad needs Darkwing to give his life the sense of purpose he wants and Gosalyn needs Darkwing to keep her in line, since she's a pretty rambunctious kid.

In THE DUCK KNIGHT RETURNS, we find that dynamic broken. Drake Mallard has given up being Darkwing to get a job in a cubicle. He and Launchpad are not speaking to each other. Gosalyn's in a school that's suffocating her. There are lots of external adversaries that challenge this new status quo and remind our three heroes how important they are to each other.

*Is it safe to assume we'll be seeing Darkwing's rogues gallery in action?*

There are a ton of villains in these four issues, too. Darkwing has such a great rogue's gallery, I couldn't pick just one. By the time you get to the end of the first issue you'll see four, and then there are only going to be more as the series progresses. All the villains' lives have been changed, too. There have been big changes in St. Canard and everyone's dealing with them in their own way. This series has the familiar characters you want but given new situations that we hope give a sense of vitality to the stories.

*-Ian Brill*

# minutemen

scans 'n edits

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